



Sgt. Ralph Hammond, administration chief, Assistant Chief of Staff Recruiting, searches a vehicle. Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver/Chevron

Ground security Marines keep depot prepared for terrorists

BY LANCE CPL. ROBERT BEAVER
Chevron Staff

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more detailed security measures have been put in place in military installations across the globe, and the depot is no exception. Military policemen here have a special resource available to help supplement security.

The depot's Provost Marshal's Office trained and employed a new group of Ground Security Force Marines Aug. 30.

GSF Marines are used primarily during recruit graduations but can also be activated during other occasions to reinforce PMO.

During graduations, many people from across the country come to see their friends and loved ones graduate from Marine Corps Recruit Training. The GSF also presents a show of force.

Although GSF Marines are not as thoroughly trained as each military police officer, they are adequately trained for their mission.

"I feel confident that I will be successful out there," said Lance Cpl. Anthony V. Rogers, administrative clerk, CPAC. "I also feel that the training is sufficient enough for me to have faith that I will be safe when other Marines are guarding our gates."

Rogers, a 19-year-old native of Chicago, finished the three-day GSF course as part of the first class to receive more detailed training with the

weapons GSF uses for security.

The training consisted mostly of class presentations on terrorism awareness and prevention to basic military police knowledge and policies. Weapons operations, maintenance and general knowledge were also featured.

As the course continued, the Marines learned about suspect escorting and apprehension techniques. They also get the opportunity to try out scenarios that they may experience on post.

The final day of training was the opportunity for the Marines to test every thing they learned. This specific class was unique, since they were the first to have the opportunity to shoot weapons more than any other class, due to ammunition surplus.

Upon return from the weapons range, the Marines finalized their training with one last practical application exercise. A simulated check point was set up with cars driving through it.

The Marines were given two scenarios of incidents that could happen but most likely won't. Both involved either a concealed weapon or drugs. At the completion of each inspection, the class instructor critiqued the Marines' performance.

As the Marines finished their training, some of them found themselves on the job within the next day. However, PMO welcomes their help.

"We couldn't do our job without the GSF Marines," said Sgt. Robert T. Horn, watch commander for 2nd Platoon, PMO. "They don't realize how

9/11 ANNIVERSARY

Five years after the towers fell in New York, Marine Corps mission still strong and clear

The terrorist attacks that occurred five years ago were intended to paralyze the nation and demoralize the great people of our democracy. In contrast to the desired result of the terrorists, Americans bonded,

volunteered and responded to the attacks with one voice and determined resolve.

President George W. Bush told all Americans that, "Freedom itself was attacked this morning by a faceless coward, and freedom will be defended."

Together as a nation, we sent a clear signal that we would not tolerate anyone at-

tempting to destroy our way of life. Today, America and the Marine Corps stand stronger than ever as young Americans enlisting in the Marine Corps understand the complexities of the Global War on Terrorism and continue to support this noble cause. Our recruiters and drill instructors continue to recruit and transform our country's very best young men and women into Marines.

These same Marines have been responsible for the amazing accomplishments and feats of heroism in Afghanistan, Iraq and around the world. The Marines, sailors and Coast Guardsmen aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot and the Western Recruiting Region are joined by our civilian Marines in remembrance of this day in our history to remind us of our mission to facilitate the protection of our nation, and remain ever vigilant and ready to answer the call.

Semper Fidelis,

A. Salinas

A. Salinas
Brigadier General,
U.S. Marine Corps



RECRUIT SPOTLIGHT

As a boxer, he's fought for many titles. Now with the title "Marine," he fights for freedom.

AEROBATHON



A Company G recruit fires rounds downrange at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. Ptc. Charlie Chavez/Chevron

Recruits learn to be riflemen first

BY PFC. CHARLIE CHAVEZ
Chevron staff

The first priority of a Marine is to be a rifleman, and one of the main focuses of recruit training is instilling in recruits the understanding, respect and knowledge of weapons.

During the second phase of boot camp, recruits are moved from the depot to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Edson Range, Calif., for a month, where the first two weeks are devoted to the nomenclature, ammunition differences, safety and firing techniques of the M-16A2 service rifle by primary marksmanship instructors. “Marksmanship is a unique skill,” said Chief Warrant Officer Vincent S. Tope, chief range officer, Edson Range. “Passing on the basic knowledge to recruits is important for them to fire well.”

During the initial week of the

move, recruits from Company G recently learned about the weapon. Understanding the important factors of building firing positions that are stable and easy to move in and out of is important, said Tope, who is from Garland, Texas.

“I had never fired a weapon before,” said Pvt. Daniel A. Jimenez, Co. G., Platoon 2009 from Alamosa, Colo., who fired 238 out of 250 for an expert qualification. “The instructors broke down the process very well and helped me overcome my fears about the weapon, which made me comfortable with it.”

The course itself is broken into four separate tables that distinguish the type of firing training and focus. The first two tables are completed in boot camp and the third is completed shortly after graduation. The fourth contains more advanced war-fighting techniques that are used mostly by infantrymen.

The first table is devoted to engaging stationary targets at various distances with slow and sustained fire for a score of 190-209 for marksman, 210-219 for sharpshooter and 220-250 for expert.

In the second table, Co. G Marines were familiarized with closely engaged combat marksmanship, which included firing controlled pairs of shots, engaging multiple targets and moving targets, according to Tope.

Marines encounter the third table while in Marine Combat Training for non-infantry occupational specialties to further the weapons knowledge, and Infantry Training Battalion for infantrymen at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Marines of Co. G are all basically trained riflemen and have passed the rigors of the rifle range where they engaged targets as far as 500 meters away. These Marines have learned weapons handling and firing skills and are ready to fight in any clime and place.

BRIEFS

Military testing offered at RAB

The Recruit Administration Branch offers the Defense Language Proficiency Test, Defense Language Aptitude Battery, and Armed Service Vocational Aptitude Battery tests to all military members, active and reservists. Testing is held every Friday at 8 a.m. Contact Mr. Rahmani or Mrs. Walters at (619) 524-6123 to schedule an appointment.

Online National Security Personnel System course

Now is your opportunity to familiarize yourself with the National Security Personnel System. Employees are encouraged to take this online course and print the certificate to be included into your DCPDS training record. Drop off a copy of your certificate at the HRO Building 7 West. Military supervisors and managers are also asked to drop a copy of the certificate.

The Department of Defense web-based course, NSPS 101 is now available at <http://www.cpmns.osd.mil/nsps/nsps101>.

This 45 to 60 minute course provides an excellent overview of NSPS, including classification, conversion, compensation, performance management and workforce shaping. One notable feature of the course is a conversion tool with salary calculator, where employees can determine their new career group, pay schedule, pay band and an estimate of their grade increase buy-in. Send any questions you may have via e-mail to Aixa Bueltel ataixa.bueltel@usmc.mil.

Voting assistance

Voting is our right and a civic responsibility. Its importance cannot be overstated. Take the time to vote in the General Elections on Nov. 7. To vote you must be registered so you can receive an absentee ballot. Unit Voting Assistance Officers can help you with registration. It's quick and easy. Please contact your UVAO if you would like to exercise your right to vote. Here are the UVAOs located aboard the Depot: **Command/Installation:** Ms. Botuchis at (619) 524-8735 **Headquarters and Service Battalion:** Capt. Serano at 524-1979 **Recruit Training Regiment:** Gunnery Sgt. Leese at 524-0367 **12th Marine Corps District:** Capt. Mestemacher at 524-5572

Recruiter assistants wanted

Recruiting Station Twin Cities, Minn., is looking for Marines, sergeant and below, to participate in the Command Recruiting Program as recruiter assistants for the following areas: Anoka, Chisago, Isanti, Sherburne and Wright County. Marines will be issued permissive TAD orders by parent commands if authorized. Promotion points, Meritorious Masts, Certificates of Commendation and many other incentives are available. For more information, contact Master Gunnery Sgt. Bautista at (763) 576-9049, or e-mail bautistaeg@marines.usmc.mil

SEND BRIEFS TO jess.levens@usmc.mil. The Chevron staff reserves the right to publish only those briefs that comply with Department of Defense regulations and the standards of the U.S. Government.

POW memorial service gives young Marine new memories of past heroes

BY PFC. ALICIA SMALL
Chevron staff

As the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Color Guard presented the colors, I saw tears come to the eyes of ex-prisoners of war, and their families as they placed their hands over their hearts and sang the national anthem.

I recently attended a memorial service that was part of a reunion for the Korean War Ex-POW Camp Two Association in hopes of writing a story on the event in remembrance of our veterans.

Although I got a story, it wasn't quite what I had planned.

My grandfather was in the Navy during World War II, and I have always been close to him. I was always interested in his stories about what he did in the war, even though he never talked about it as much as the rest of my family and I wished he would have.

My grandfather's story is important to me, and I am confident that other veterans' families want to know their loved ones' stories as well. So, my plan for the story was to speak with at least one of the humble heroes and get a more personal outlook on what the war was like for him.

I found it difficult for these men to tell personal details because of how modest they were about what they had done and how proud they were to have fought for our country.

One man, Mack McTaggart, a native of Satellite Beach, FL, told me a little bit about his time in the prison camp. He was in one of the first B-29 bomber planes that

was shot down during the war. He relayed to me how harsh life was in a prison camp and how he and the other men were tortured.

He spent 90 days in the hole, which is an area designated for prisoners who were referred as the biggest threats to their captors. In this dark and claustrophobic room, he was unable to stand up or lay down. The entire time he was forced to stay in the same position without the privilege of stretching or moving to a more comfortable stance.

McTaggart said everything he went through was for freedom's sake. He said he fought so people could live and worship as they pleased, and he believed all his sacrifices were worth it.

While I was at the memorial service, I also met the daughter of another one of these brave men. Her father passed away two years ago, but she was able to tell me a little about him.

He was an Air Force pilot that had been shot down and captured after the Tiger Death March, which was a nine-day forced march of POWs over 120 miles of steep Korean terrain, where hundreds of American men died from causes ranging from being shot to dysentery.

He and many other men in the camp were starved until they were repatriated or sent back to America.

She said he got down to about 85 pounds. Then, before they were released from the camp, they started feeding them more to give the impression they were treated better during their internment.

As I sat and listened to the list of these

courageous men who had passed since their repatriation, I realized how fast we are losing them and how many of their stories go untold.

Their legacies are dying with them and I believe we need to talk to them more and try to persuade them to understand how important it is that they tell their account of the wars.

Our veterans have fought and died for the rights and freedoms of our country. It is crucial for those presently serving in the military to know what great men and women have come before them. I believe you have to know where you came from to have success in your life.

The history these distinguished men and women have made is fundamental to those making the decision to join the armed forces. I think if people see the magnitude of sacrifices that were made to protect their liberties, it may convince them of the significance of continuing the tradition.

I am fortunate to have my grandfather still around and have the ability to speak to him about the things he did while he served this great country. Every time I hear another story of his, I am confident that my decision to join the Marine Corps was the best decision I've ever made.

It is because of the extraordinary men like my grandpa that I had the opportunity to raise my right hand or stand on the yellow footprints. I thank him and every veteran who fought for and or died for the sake of this wonderful country.

Legal: Not everyone needs a will

BY CAPT. CHRISTIAN PAPPAS
Legal Assistance Officer/Staff Judge Advocate

“I want to leave my Playstation 2 to Pfc. Jones if something happens to me, sir,” the Marine said with whom I was meeting to draw up his will before he went on deployment. I asked him what else he wanted to give away in his will if he died. He said that was it.

The junior enlisted Marine was unmarried, had no children, no real estate, and not more than \$2,000 to \$3,000 in his Navy Federal bank account.

“You don't need a will,” I told him. The Marine that sat across my desk in the Legal Assistance Section of the Law Center looked quizzically at me. “What do you mean I don't need a will, sir?” he asked. I explained that he didn't need a will, but that we'd certainly draw one up for him if he wanted.

The act of getting a will and executing a document that states what you want to happen to your property if you die is a service we provide any Marine who ventures over to the Law Center. The Legal Administrative Manual states that under no circumstances will a Marine be forced to get a will. Often-times, before a deployment, units are rounded up and sent off

to the law center to get wills. But do they really need them?

The bottom line is that if you are married, have children, have some real estate or other valuable assets or monies, you should get a will. A will is a valuable instrument which tells your friends and family how you want your inheritance given.

A will is taken by your executor, or the person who carries out your bequests, and a court of law. Many times, Marines will want to have certain pieces of personal property like their officer or noncommissioned officer sword go to a brother or sister or fellow Marine instead of their spouse.

I had another Marine who told me he wanted to give his Harley Davidson motorcycle to his civilian friend as long as the friend painted on the gas tank the Marine's face and the following: “In memory of Private First Class Johnny Smith, he was cool with it ...”. I was happy to oblige.

However, what many Marines don't understand is that if you have very little money and little to give away to your parents (assuming that's where you want your property to go and you have neither children nor a spouse) it's not cost effective to have a will probated in a court of law.

The fees associated with probating a

will when compared with the very little that is actually being given away is not cost effective when all there may be to distribute is a Playstation and \$200 in an account.

Almost all states have predictable administrative estate laws in place for people who die intestate, or without a will. These laws usually follow your family line by giving your property to your spouse first, parents second and siblings third and its cost free. This can be important if your family has to spend \$4,000 on funeral expenses.

Another misunderstanding is that you need a new will every time your squadron or unit deploys. This is not always the case. You only need a new will if something significant has happened in your life. If you got married or had another child, you may want to include them in your new will.

You may want to disinherit a spouse because you are separated, but not yet divorced. A new will is also a good idea if you purchased real estate or inherited some land or money.

Regardless of your circumstances, the Law Center's Legal Assistance Section in Building 12 is prepared to talk you through your issues and ultimately give you the knowledge you need to make the decision of whether or not to get a will.

Young Marines are good kids with good goals

BY PFC. ALICIA SMALL
Chevron staff

It's not every day you find a young teenager who knows what he or she wants to do with his or her life. Children often become confused about what they want their future to hold, unless they have the proper guidance and tools to help make their decision.

The Temecula Valley Young Marines provides that guidance children need to lead a productive and prideful life. The Young Marines program is a blessing in disguise.

During the time in America's history that it seems the youth are becoming more rebellious and more disobedient with the increasing lack of leadership in their lives, a program like the Young Marines shows up and provides the leadership and learning tools they need to live a happy, successful life.

Speaking with any of the children in the program, no matter how old, is a delightful experience. The kids are extremely polite and very well-behaved. Please and thank yous are common to be heard.

Knowing what you want to do with your life is an important thing. By the time most of these kids reach the age of 14 and 15, they already know what they want to do.

Even if they don't choose to continue on and pursue the Marine Corps, the things the kids learn from the program are used in their decision to choose an upstanding career.

Most young children and teenagers don't do much for their community and have little to no care for showing the veterans any appreciation for what they did for the country. This program helps the children realize how important our veterans are and what they can do to raise their quality of life, like they did for us while fighting for our freedoms.

Children, especially teenagers, are usually too involved in their own lives to try and make a difference in other's lives. They tend to want to go out and have fun with friends than do anything to help the community become better and more improved.

The Young Marines go all over participating in various activities to help the community and people in general. Recently, they walked over 100 miles and raised over \$2,100 in donations at a Relay for Life walk in support of the American Cancer Society.

Laying a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was one of the many things the group has done to show gratitude to all veterans. They have taken part in World War II memorial ceremonies and traveled to Las Angeles for Vietnam Veteran History Day.

The leadership of the Young Marines has been extraordinary. Getting parents involved with their children's lives is sometimes a hard thing to do. Temecula Valley Young Marines is very family-oriented and strongly encourages full-family participation if at all possible.

These kids are being provided with the key to unlock the door of amazing accomplishments.

Keep up the great work, Young Marine volunteers, and these children will remember you in all their success.

BY LANCE CPL. ROBERT BEAVER
Chevron Staff

As hundreds of spectators lined the sidewalks of the Imperial Beach Pier Park in Imperial Beach, Calif., many athletes from all physical levels race against the clock to achieve the best time possible during the 14th annual Imperial Beach Triathlon, Aug. 27.

Each competitor had to swim a 500 meters, jump on a bike and pedal nine miles, and then run 3.2 miles to the finish line.

Seven Marines from the depot's triathlon team were among the racers who crossed the finish line.

Staff Sgt. Ira Wilkie lead his team with a final time of 1:03:17. Wilkie placed fifth in the men's military division, while the rest of his team followed closely behind him. The entire triathlon team



The depot triathlon club wears the initials “P.M.K.” to honor the team's deceased founder, Capt. Patrick M. Klokow. Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver/Chevron

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Lance Cpl. Quentin Grogan, short stop for the Barstow Bulldogs, sweeps up a ground ball as it rolls into center field. *Lance Cpl. James Green/Chevron*

Depot hosts 4th regional softball tourney, MCAS Miramar takes home hardware

BY LANCE CPL. JAMES GREEN
Chevron staff

The 2006 West Coast Regional Softball Championship kicked off with Col. Mark Callihan, chief of staff, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, throwing the first pitch.

After the opening ceremony, the games began with a match between "Old School", Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and the "Bulldogs", Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif.

This year's championship was hosted by the depot for its fourth time in the almost 50-year history of the Marine Corps Regional Softball Championship.

The tourney included California-Marine teams from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, MCRD San Diego, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, 1st Marine Division Camp Pendleton and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. Marines from Yuma, Ariz., and Hawaii also attended the event.

A scout from the All-Marine Softball Team, the team that represents the Marine Corps in the Armed Forces Championship Games, attended the games in search of fresh new talent.

After a week of competition, the Camp Pendleton and Miramar teams played in the championship game. With well-rounded teams playing on both sides, the day started off slowly. Pendleton and Miramar were separated by one run.

Miramar held Pendleton down in the third inning before taking a 10-4 lead. By the fifth inning, Pendleton was inching its way closer to Miramar. After a Miramar error, Pendleton had a runner on base, and a two-run homer made the score 11-8 in Miramar's favor, but in the final inning, Miramar tacked on six more runs to win the championship 17-8.



Gunnery Sgt. Alonzo Baxter, designated hitter for Camp Pendleton's Old School, hits one of four home runs against Barstow. *Lance Cpl. James Green/Chevron*



Barstow pitcher Staff Sgt. Michael Woods pitches to Camp Pendleton Old Schoolers. *Lance Cpl. James Green/Chevron*



A Camp Pendleton Old School runner is thrown out at first base in the 28-2 win over Barstow. *Ptc. Alicia Small/Chevron*



Members of the Marine Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms stand at attention and cover their hearts as the national anthem plays before the first game of the tournament. *Ptc. Alicia Small/Chevron*



Depot Mascot, Lance Cpl. Molly Marine works out with a Pilates ball while gym patrons sweat out the aerobathon stations. *Pfc. Alicia Small/Chevron photos*



Virginia Stafford, a fitness trainer at the depot Fitness Center teaches participants Yoga stretches as one of the last classes of this year's aerobathon.

MCCS gets blood pumping at aerobathon

BY PFC. ALICIA SMALL
Chevron staff

Marines, sailors and civilians aboard the depot got their hearts pumping during the Marine Corps Community Services Semper Fit Aerobathon held at the MCRD Fitness Center from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Aug. 23.

There were eight classes available during the event, ranging from hard-hitting kickboxing and spin class to relaxing yoga and tai chi.

The classes lasted only half-an-hour, which enabled those in attendance to participate in more than one class and obtain a better idea of what is accessible at the fitness center.

"I think the aerobathon provided a good way to find out about what the gym has to offer," said Lance Cpl. Anthony V. Rogers, administration clerk. "Many people who work on this depot don't realize how many programs exist for their benefit."

Depot personnel have more to use at the fitness center than just weights.

They now have two certified personal trainers, Martina Johnson, native of San Diego, and Jeremy Sabastian of Narragansett, R.I. They can aid people in choosing the proper workout programs for themselves.

A micro-fit assessment, which consists of a blood pressure check, flexibility, upper-body strength, aerobic capacity and

fat testing, is given to help determine what kind of class is needed most.

During the event, the instructor teaching the class changed every half hour.

"I like the idea of the new instructors because it brings variation to the class," said Rogers, native of Chicago, Ill. "Different instructors like to work out different."

According to Reggie Cosby, the daytime manager at the fitness center, all of the instructors know how to work all of the separate parts of the body properly. Each instructor stresses the importance of stretching before and after working out and participating in the proper program.

Cosby, a native of Henderson Ky., believes fitness is important for all people, but more so for those in the military because of the high level of demand put on them.

Turnout for the occasion was as good. The fitness center's goal was to have at least 80 participants, and that goal was reached, said Pam Swords, health promotion coordinator.

"The aerobathon was a fun event that provided a good way to give back to all the people who work on base," said Swords, native of Elizabethtown, Pa. "Everyone involved had a great time and looks forward to the excitement of next year's aerobathon."